

No end to Spencer's row

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Kolkata: RPG group company Spencer's cried foul over strong-arm tactics by hawkers and its "unauthorised and hostile" audit of products sold at the Rashbehari Avenue store on Wednesday.

Last Thursday, hawkers had foiled the inauguration of the store and relented only after the management agreed to a charter of demands four days later. Now, Spencer's has alleged that the hawkers have placed fresh conditions that will pinch customers further.

"Certain clauses were imposed, keeping in mind the hawkers' interests. On Tuesday afternoon, representatives of the hawkers' union barged into the store to conduct an audit. They alleged non-adherence to most of the clauses. We deny the allegation. This led to a meeting at the mayor's office on Wednesday, in which further conditions are being imposed," said a spokesperson.

On Wednesday, the hawkers' union directed the store to sell only packaged *masala* and spices of not less than 500 gm. It also barred the store from selling *posho* in packets less than 250 gm. The minimum vegetable purchase has now been fixed at 3 kg.

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